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The Dacus Digest

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Open Educational Resources Benefit Winthrop

Dacus Library has begun work on an open educational resources (OER) initiative for Winthrop University. OERs are beneficial because they can make higher education more attainable, and they can also make courses more relevant for unique and diverse student populations. Data shows that when expensive, traditional textbooks are selected for use in college classes, students suffer a huge financial burden. Textbook costs have risen astronomically since 2002, and students report that buying their textbooks presents a bigger challenge than paying for their housing and food costs.

When students lack the financial means to purchase required textbooks, they resort to strategies that jeopardize their academic success, such as purchasing an older edition, delaying the purchase, or not purchasing the textbook at all. Ultimately, some of these students earn poor grades, drop courses, or even fail courses. These negative impacts add up and can lead some students to abandon their higher education goals. This is not just bad news for students, but also for Winthrop University's retention and completion rates.

Open educational resources offer a solution to the problems caused by traditional textbook costs.

OER materials are free and available to be used in a variety of ways. Benefits of using OERs extend not only to students in the form of cost savings and increased access, but to faculty members and the institution, as well. OER materials can be tailored to fit the specific needs of a course, which can make it more engaging. Faculty enjoy greater freedom to curate course content in innovative ways to improve student success.

The key benefits of using OERs tie directly into some of the main objectives of the [Winthrop Plan](#): improving student success; increasing retention and graduation rates; meeting the needs of diverse student populations; supporting inclusive excellence; promoting a culture of innovation; and enhancing access through alternate delivery methods. Winthrop University, its students, and its faculty members all stand to gain considerably from the wide-scale adoption of open educational resources across campus.

For more information about open educational resources, see the [Dacus Library Guide to OER](#). To get started locating open educational resources for courses you teach, reach out to your liaison librarian for assistance.



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Research Explorations Speaker Series

Research Explorations is a speaker series, hosted by Dacus Library and the College of Arts and Sciences, that showcases Winthrop faculty and student research projects. Guest speakers not only present and discuss their current research projects, they also explain their research methods and processes. This could include how to search for sources, how to form research surveys and get IRB approval, how to write abstracts, and how to present research. These are all important skills for new researchers to learn and model, and the Research Explorations series helps students learn how to build a framework for structuring their own research projects. Students also learn techniques for presenting their own research projects at conferences or other venues.

There were six Research Explorations presentations during spring semester. They all took place virtually via Zoom, and students received Cultural Event credit for attending.

Spring semester presentations included:

January 28: Ms. Kaetrena Davis Kendrick, dean of Dacus Library and Pettus Archives, “Miles Apart? The Experience of Academic Librarianship in Korea.”

February 9: Dr. Adolphus Belk Jr., professor of political science, “Going Upstate: Challenging Mass Imprisonment in New York State.”

February 25: Dr. Hye-Sung Kim, assistant professor of political science, “Conducting Field Research in Kenya During the COVID-19 Pandemic.”

March 16: Dr. Jessica Yang, assistant professor of social work, “Aging Out: Stories from Former Foster Youth.”

March 30: Dr. Hope Lima, assistant professor of human nutrition, “Examining Provider Perceptions and Roles Associated with Breastfeeding Support and Medical Management in Primary Care”

April 20: Dr. Joi D. Anderson, assistant professor of social work, and Ms. Aimée Sykes, undergraduate student in social work, “The Relationship Between Trauma and Post-Release Employment for Incarcerated Women.”

The Research Explorations series will continue in the fall semester, with the following researchers scheduled to present:

Dr. Brandon Ranallo-Benavidez, assistant professor of political science

Dr. William Schulte, associate professor of mass communication

Dr. Scott Werts, associate professor of geology

Dr. Chen Chen, assistant professor of English

Dr. Kiyoshi Sasaki, assistant professor of biology

If you are interested in participating in the Research Explorations series, please contact [Dr. Hye-Sung Kim](#).

Research Explorations



Indigenous Artifacts Collection at Pettus Archives

The Pettus Archives and Dacus Library are planning a joint two-part exhibit and panel discussion series to debut a recent acquisition of indigenous artifacts from Central and South America.

The collection was given to Pettus Archives in the fall of 2019 by Mr. Tony Salazar. The artifacts, dating from between 100 to more than 500 years ago, were collected by Mr. Salazar's father in the 1930s and 1940s in Central America. After being researched, documented, and described by Mayan archaeology expert Dr. Brent Woodfill, assistant professor of anthropology at Winthrop University, the artifacts will be the centerpiece of two exhibits at the Pettus Archives and the subject of displays at Dacus Library.

The artifacts reflect numerous aspects of Latin American and indigenous culture, values, and lifeways. The programming will add to the knowledge of Winthrop and local communities of indigenous cultures of the Americas.

The collection debut is planned for Hispanic Heritage Month in September 2021, with a related follow-up exhibit focusing on Indigenous women during Women's History Month in March 2022. Both events will include exhibitions of the artifacts at Pettus Archives along with displays of supporting library materials at Dacus Library. The events will feature panel discussions and receptions.

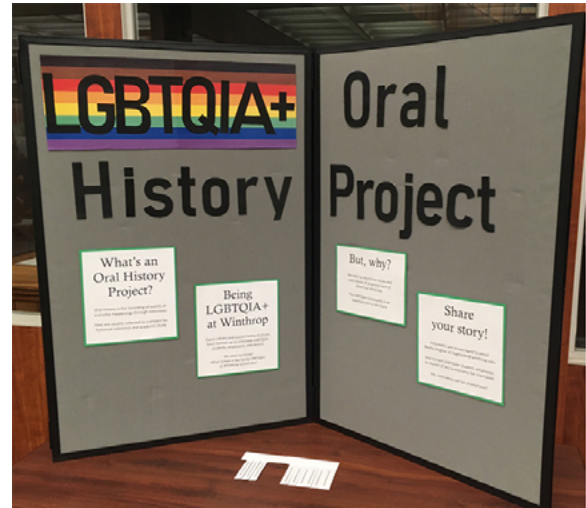
The images below include several examples of artifacts from the collection:



Being LGBTQIA+ at Winthrop

The oral history project, Being LGBTQIA+ at Winthrop, is a collection of personal interviews from volunteers of the Winthrop University community, and how their LGBTQIA+ identities shaped their life and WU experiences.

Those volunteers are alumni, current or retired employees, and students. The recordings are presently in the process of being transcribed, and will be available for viewing on the Digital Commons in the future. Thank you so much to all the participants for sharing your wonderful stories!



Dacus Library and Pettus Archives Presented Virtual Programming for Black History Month

Dacus Library and Pettus Archives collaborated on a virtual program for Black History Month titled, “Stepping Into Winthrop: Finding and Forming the Black Family on Campus.”

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) theme for the 2021 Black History Month was “The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity.”

Throughout the month of February, Dacus and Pettus honored Black History Month and the ASALH theme by presenting a [virtual exhibit](#) highlighting items from the Pettus Archives collection, a library display of materials from the Dacus print and electronic collections, and social media profiles spotlighting members of the Winthrop community.



The First 100 Days of a United States Presidency

Dacus Library and the John C. West Forum of Politics and Policy teamed up in April for a virtual event titled, “The First 100 Days of a United States Presidency.”

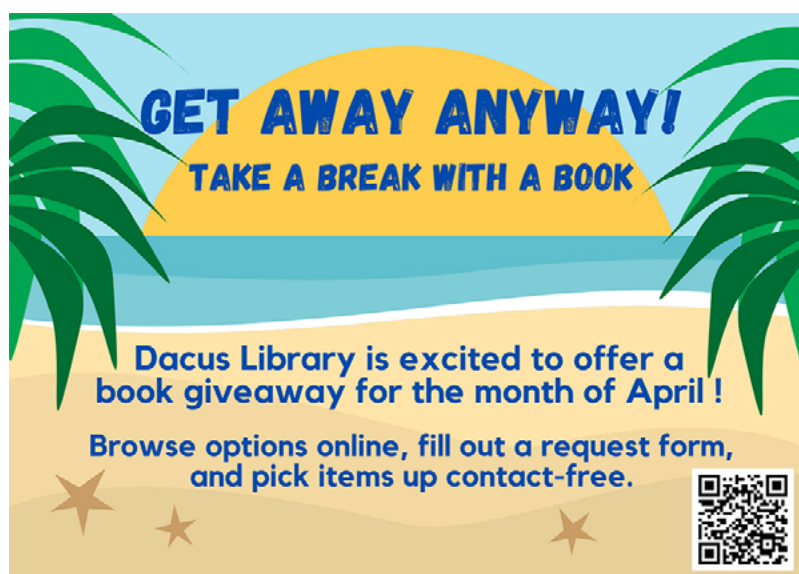
Dr. Eddie Lee from the Department of History and Dr. John Holder from the Department of Political Science discussed the history and significance of the first 100 days of a United States presidency. They highlighted some notorious cases and provided an update on the Biden administration’s first 100 days.

Assistant Professor Amanda McLeod, Dacus Library’s government documents librarian, spoke about the library’s government documents collection and presented documents pertaining to the “first 100 days” theme.

The event was covered by CN2 News, and the presenters were interviewed for [the story](#).



Get Away Anyway! - Book Giveaway Event



Even though we didn’t have a full week for Spring Break this year, Dacus Library made it possible to “Get Away Anyway” with book vacation packages!

This book giveaway event happened during the month of April. Winthrop students, faculty, and staff, as well as community members, were able to browse book package selections and reserve them entirely online. Packages could then be picked up contact-free in the library foyer during our open hours.

The event was incredibly successful with 162 book packages given away to the Winthrop community.

Personal Delivery is Here!

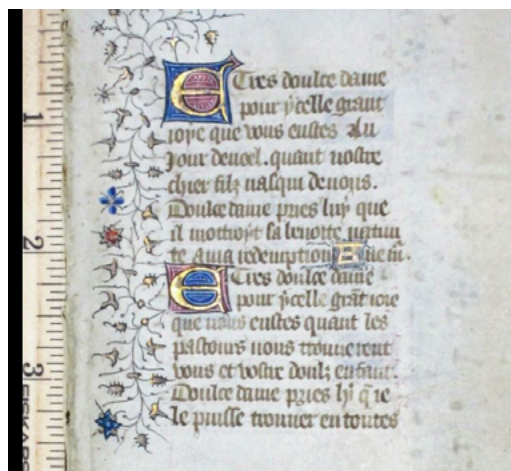
Good news! The library now offers home delivery for users who live outside the immediate Rock Hill area. Just log in to your OneSearch account, select your books, and choose “Home Address” as your pick-up location. We will ship the books to you at your registered address. As they say on TV, “certain restrictions may apply,” so be sure to check out the [details on the library’s website](#) or call the Circulation Desk at 803/323-4502. Happy requesting!

Medieval Studies Items Displayed at Dacus Library



War Chronicle ca. 1600s

This manuscript, bound in animal-hide, is a miscellany that includes part of a war chronicle about the invasion of Mecca, histories of the early followers of Muhammad, unidentified poetry, and other currently unidentified texts. It is written in Arabic script but may be in the Persian language; the headings of the texts are in Arabic. The binding, which bears signs of water damage, still preserves remnants of an original blind-stamped border on both front and back boards. It appears to be late 17th or 18th century but no provenance has been established.



Prayers to the Virgin in French

This newly-donated leaf is from a Book of Hours made in Northern France or the Low Countries in the first half of the 15th century. Although most of the contents would have been in Latin, this page contains prayers to the Virgin Mary written in early French.

Dacus Supplies Props for Middle School Production

Earlier this year, a production member for a middle school production of Disney’s Newsies got in touch with Acquisitions and Collections Librarian Martha Smith with an unusual request: Could the Dacus Library supply old newspapers as props for their forthcoming musical?

As more and more people (and libraries!) move to electronic subscriptions, finding discarded newspapers for props proved to be a challenging task

for the production crew. Although many of our own newspaper print subscriptions have moved to online, Dacus Library still receives multiple print newspapers, and was able to fill the request.

Many thanks to Martha Smith for helping out the Gold Hill Middle School production of Newsies! Find out more about the production, and see our acknowledgement in their [electronic playbill](#).